CHASTLETON HOUSE

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The oldest thing to be seen at Chastleton is the prehistoric stone which till lately served as a field gate post on the Barrow hill. This name, which occurs in a deed of the 17th century, and is in use today, probably shows where the early inhabitants were buried, though the remaining earthworks are those of a camp. A later link with the past is the Saxon stone in the churchyard, which witnesses to the fact that there was a Church on this spot before the Norman Conquest. The oldest part of the Church is however Norman, and was perhaps built by the d'Oilys who obtained the manor by marriage. In 1129 Robert d'Oily founded Oseney Abbey at Oxford, and among his endowments was the Church of Chastleton. In the 14th century the Abbey was holding about 60 acres of land in Chastleton. In 1336 Robert Trillowe, who then held the manor, founded a Chantry in the Church. This now forms the south aisle, the Piscina and priest's seat still remaining there. In the north aisle is also a Piscina but no record of this chapel remains. The chancel was rebuilt in the 19th century. In the nave are many memorials, then moved from the chancel, among them being the Throckmorton and Ansley Brasses.

There is no record of the building of Chastleton House, but as in old days the manor house was always close to the Church, it probably stands on the original " site of the manor ". In the 15th century the great-grand-daughter of Sir John Trillowe married William Catesby. Their son was William Catesby, minister under Richard III, and the " cat " in the lampoon,

> " The Cat, the Rat, and Lovel the Dog,
> Rule all England under a Hog."

His estates were confiscated by Henry VII, but were restored to his son, George, and the Letter of

Attorney, dated 1496, by which George Catesby entered on his father's property remains at Chastleton. In 1568 his descendant, William Catesby, held Chastleton, and settled it on his wife as her jointure. After he died she married Anthony Throckmorton, son of Sir George Throckmorton of Coughton Court, and lived at Chastleton till her death in 1592. Her son, William Catesby, married Anne Throckmorton, of Coughton, and their son was Robert Catesby, whose name is for ever linked with the Gunpowder Plot. It was at Coughton Court that some of the Conspirators waited all night for news of the success of their attempt.

History knows Robert Catesby as the leader of this Plot. At Chastleton we see him only as a country squire, having apparently no desire to embroil his neighbours with the Government. He married Katherine, daughter of Sir Thomas Leigh, of Stoneleigh, and his son Robert was baptised in Chastleton Church in 1595. Katherine's jointure was £2,000, and the manor of Chastleton was settled on her. In 1596 in consideration of an augmentation of her dowry, Robert Catesby mortgaged the manor to Sir Thomas Leigh. The deed hangs in the hall at Chastleton On the back Sir Thomas wrote " My Daughter's Joynture ".

At that date the parish of Chastleton was owned by three young men, George Greenwood, Edmund Ansley, and Robert Catesby. As was then usual the land was divided into two large Open Fields, in which lay, unfenced, the strips of arable and pasture. The three landowners finding that their lands " doe liyye intermingled throwe the ffeildes of Chastleton ", agreed, " to pass as it were by way of exchange " certain parcels of their lands. Robert Catesby's copy of the deed by which this change was effected is in Chastleton House. Many of the field names in the three Schedules are still in use. In 1579 Catesby allowed George Greenwood " free libty " to dig a little ditche through his land to a field of Greenwood's called fortye Acres. In 1934, after a long drought, the Gloucestershire C.C. approached Mrs. Whitmore Jones about a watercourse on her land cut from a brook which runs into the Evenlode. She could only reply that the watercourse had been in existence for at least

twenty years. Catesby's deed, and the Schedules of 1596, however, show that it is the little ditch dug by George Greenwood more than three hundred years ago.

The deeds at Chastleton show Robert Catesby sinking ever deeper into debt, and raising money on the manor from his cousins, the Sheldons, Sir Thomas Leigh, and others. In 1601 the Church Register has " Mr. Robert Catesbie came to inhabit at Chastleton . . . . the eighth day of Januarie ". The following month Catesby was with Lord Essex in London, and on February 8th was taken prisoner in the Essex Rebellion. He was fined 4,000 marks, about £3,000. This may have been the final blow to his ownership of Chastleton, and in May 1602 the manor was sold by the Mortgagees, with his consent, to Walter Jones, of Lincoln's Inn, esq., and Henry Jones, gent, his son, for £4,000. (It may be worth while remarking that in legal documents " esq." stands for a landowner, and " gent " for any man entitled to bear arms.)

Although forced to sell the estate Robert Catesby seems to have been most reluctant to leave it. In June 1603 Walter and Henry Jones were still willing to give him time for the " Redemption of the Land," asking only for the purchase money and estate expenses incurred by them. Apparently this was an impossibility for him. No deeds remain to show when he finally left Chastleton, but in the Calendar of State Papers there is an entry, indexed as referring to Robert Catesby, and placed by the Editor between two entries dated January 26th, 1605, " Thos. Winter to John Grant. Begs him to come over on Saturday to Chastleton to be introduced to my cousin Catesby." Both Winter and Grant were well known conspirators in the Gunpowder Plot, and this entry brings the Plot very close to Chastleton. And after the death of Catesby one of his servants subjected to examination was George Bartlett, probably one of the family which still lives in Chastleton. There is still a slight link between the owner of Chastleton House and the Catesbys. Thomas Whitmore Harris, who succeeded to the estate in 1900, and took the name of Whitmore Jones, was a grandson by his mother of John Henry Whitmore Jones, and by his father was descended from Sir Richard Catesby, the great-grandfather of Robert Catesby.

THE JONES FAMILY.

Walter Jones belonged to an old Welsh family, and was distantly related to Lord Burleigh. His grandfather, being a younger son, had established himself as a wool merchant at Witney. Walter Jones had a house in Worcester, and was Member for the City from 1584 to 1589, and from January to April in 1603. In his portrait of 1614 in the hall at Chastleton he wears a robe and cap, and carries documents headed Camera Stellata. He married Elinor Dorothy, a Maid of honour to Queen Elizabeth and daughter of Henry Pope, of the Queen's Jewel House. Her picture shows her wearing a very long gold chain, and a seal ring. The chain is specially mentioned in her husband's will, and the ring is in the possession of Mrs. Whitmore Jones. Their eldest son, Henry, married in 1609 Anne, daughter of Sir Edmund Fettiplace, of Childrey. Their three daughters married respectively, George Greenwood (whose house and land lay on the other side of the road from Chastleton House); Raphe Holt, of Stoke Lyne; and William Bankes, of Winstanley, Lancashire. The Bankes family still holds this property and the present owner is a direct descendant of Walter Jones.

When Walter Jones died in 1632 an Inventory was taken by George Greenwood and John Wade. The fact that George Greenwood was so near a relation assures us that his names of the rooms were those used by the family in 1632. They are easily identified today. In the hall the only furniture named is the long table, a Court Cupboard, four long forms, and six joyned stools. The little Parlor and the great Parlor are also named. Over the great Parlor is the great Chamber. Both these rooms had then four windows, and each contained three window cushions, there being only three deep window seats in each room. In the great Chamber were twenty-four pictures valued at £3, probably the Sybils and Prophets at the top of the panelling. The room over the little parlor had the name " Mr. Fettyplace his chamber ", perhaps so named from John Fettiplace, brother and Trustee of Mrs. Henry Jones. In it were three large pieces of Arras. possibly the three pieces of tapestry which hang there today. The middle Chamber opens from the great

Chamber. In this room were six pieces of Arras hangings. There is no tapestry there now and it seems possible that these included the five Sheldon tapestries in the house in 1919, one of which had the initials of Henry Jones. Over the mantel piece in the middle Chamber are the arms of Henry Jones and his wife.

Adjoining this room was a little Chamber, and then came " Mr. Sheldon's Chamber ". Here were three pieces of Arras hangings which may be those in this room today. The very ornate chimney piece has the arms of Sheldon and Ruding, and two figures (possibly of the Sheldon family) the elder holding a scull, showing that he was dead when the mantel piece was erected. the cornice round the walls of the room carries the lions and sheldrakes of the Sheldon arms. The Sheldons were closely linked with the Catesbys by marriage. William Sheldon, who built Weston House, a few miles from Chastleton, married a sister of Mrs. William Catesby (later Mrs. Anthony Throckmorton) who lived at Chastleton till 1592 ; and Ralph Sheldon, son of William, married a Throckmorton. When Walter Jones bought Chastleton the Sheldons were virtually owners of it. It is therefore not strange that traces of them should be found in the house. A chair in the hall is said to have their crest on it.

The room from which the secret chamber opens had the name of " The Chamber over the Parlor ". The secret chamber is simply called the closet, by which name it appears also in the Inventory of 1755. The long room over the hall had Dornix hangings ; the room next it had the name of " The Three Staire Chamber," the three steps in it giving the head room to the secret chamber below. On the top storey the rooms named are the Gallery, the Tower Chamber, and three others, in one of which were " Armes for a horsman, two Petronells and two old Halberds, one fowleinge peece and one birdinge peece,"

Outside the house were the Wool howse, the Meale howse, the Brewhowse, the Milk howse, the Stable, and the Barne. In the barn were geldings, sheep, cows, bacon hogs, hay, and agricultural instruments. These items show that Walter Jones farmed some of his own land as Robert Catesby had done, and that

the Great House was the Home Farm of the estate. The prices of the time are shown by the fact that the six cows were valued at only £24.

Henry Jones, who succeeded his father in 1632, had thirteen children, of whom eight were baptised at Chastleton between the years 1619 and 1633. One of the daughters married Giles Palmer, of Compton Scorpion, and her daughter married Thomas Greenwood, of Chastleton. The Greenwoods, so closely linked with the Jones family, continued to hold their property till 1784, and their Dove Cot, rebuilt in 1762, still remains. Henry Jones died in 1656, but there is no record of the death of his wife. Their pictures hang in the hall, together with those of their two sons, Arthur and Henry.

Arthur's wife, Sarah Evans, was the daughter of a London merchant, and probably a sister of Hester Evans the wife of Arthur's first cousin, George Greenwood. Arthur seems to have lived at Chastleton in his father's life-time as his twelve children were all baptised there between 1640 and 1658. In 1651 he was in the Royalist army at the battle of Worcester. After that crushing defeat the Royalists, broken and dispersed, sought their own homes. Arthur Jones rode the long distance, and putting his tired horse into the stable entered his father's house. But Cromwell had set a price on the head of Charles II, and the Roundheads pursued many of the Cavaliers in hopes of earning this reward. It was not long after Arthur Jones had reached home that he and his wife heard the tramp of horses in the lane that runs close to Chastleton House. Resistance was impossible, but the little room so carefully hidden over the porch might afford a hiding place. Arthur Jones ran up to that while Sarah went to the hall door, at which the Roundheads were knocking. She tried in vain to persuade them that her husband was not there, for they retorted that they had seen his horse in the stable and knew he had returned. It was however late and dark, and they decided to wait for daylight, and to search the house in the morning. Mrs. Jones could do nothing but provide them with the supper they demanded. The house has two staircases, one in each of the towers. That in the west tower must always have been the

one in general use as the kitchen and offices are served by it. It was therefore probably up these stairs that the Roundheads stumbled after their meal by the hall fire. At the top of the first flight they entered the bedroom on the right, and announced their intention of sleeping there. Through this room is the only exit from the secret chamber, and with daylight the room might be discovered. Mrs. Jones's mother wit did not fail her. She went to her medicine chest, which, as was common in country houses to a much later date, was well stocked with simples and drugs, and putting some laudanum into a can of ale, carried it to her unwelcome guests. (One may perhaps imagine that she assumed an air of hospitality in offering this night-cap to the weary, and that they accepted it with pleasure.) Listening intently outside the door she would tell when they dropped into a heavy slumber, and very quietly entering she crossed the room, and pressed the stud which opens the hidden door. Arthur Jones was able to reach the stable, where, finding that the Roundhead horses had not been so hard pressed as his own, he saddled one of theirs and rode away. His estate was of course fined, and he had to remain in hiding for a time, but he was at home again in two years, and at the Restoration he planted an oak, now a fine tree visible from the window of the Great Chamber. This story of the secret chamber rests only on family tradition but the fact that the family has remained in possession of the house from that day to this warrants a remembrance of the hiding and the escape.

In 1667 Henry, the eldest son of Arthur Jones, married Sarah Smith, daughter of James Smith, esq., deceased. Part of the estate, guaranteed to be worth £250 a year, was settled on her, her jointure being £2,000. By the same deed provision was made for Arthur's wife should she be left a widow. She was to have an Annuity of £100, partly from the " home ground called the Splatts ". This is the land next the garden on the east. She was to have the right to dwell in half of the mansion house with her servants. Arthur Jones died in 1687, and was succeeded by Henry, but both the latter and his wife died that same year. In order to encourage the woollen trade a law had been passed that all shrouds, coffin linings, etc. must be made of sheep's wool only. The fact that this

law had been obeyed had to be mentioned in the Register. The first entry of a burial " in woollen " at Chastleton was in 1678. Disobedience to this law entailed a fine of £2 10s. 0d. As this money went to the poor it was rather an act of grace to break the law. Henry Jones, who survived his wife a short time, did so. He was only forty seven at his death. He had eight children, six of whom died as infants. It is pathetic to notice that he and his wife always gave the name of a lost child to the next born, having two Sarahs, two James, and three Henrys.

Walter, the sixth child of Henry Jones, was born in 1674, and was only about fourteen when his father died. His grandmother, Mrs. Arthur Jones, was living in Chastleton House, and it seems probable that she managed his estate till he came of age, and perhaps arranged his marriage in 1697, when he was twenty-three. The bride was Anne Whitmore, daughter of Richard Whitmore, of Lower Slaughter Manor. (This estate, a few miles from Chastleton, is still the property of the Whitmores.)

The family descended from John Whytemere, lord of the manor of Claverley, in Shropshire, in the reign of Henry III. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, William Whitmore, then a merchant in London, was able, with other merchants to perform a great public service. The Bank of Genoa was financing Philip of Spain in fitting out the Armada, but these London merchants put such pressure on the Bank that the expedition was delayed for a year. For this service William Whitmore was granted a second crest, the Falcon, which, with the Jones lion, now forms the Whitmore-Jones crest. He died in 1593, leaving two sons, William who bought the estate of Apley, in Shropshire, and George, to whom James I granted the manor of Lower Slaughter. In 1697 Anne Whitmore's father was dead. Her Marriage Settlement is signed by her mother, her brother, Sir William Whitmore of Apley, and John Hammond, D.D., of Oxford, who had married Elinor Jones, aunt to Walter. Her Dowry was £2,500 and the land settled on her was the same as that settled on Anne Fettiplace in 1609. It included the Barrow hill which adjoins the manor of Addlestrop. It is interesting that the Freeboard, or boundary between the two

manors, is called locally the Free Bench, which means a widow's dowry. The seals on the deed show that after signing it Walter Jones handed his seal to Anne, who used it for her own signature.

Unfortunately the Chastleton finances were in a bad state, (possibly owing to the Civil War) and in 1699 Walter Jones raised £735 by a mortgage on the estate. In 1703 his brother-in-law, Sir William Whitmore, took over the mortgage. In 1704 Walter Jones died at the age of thirty, leaving to his widow an encumbered estate, and four children under the age of six, John, Henry, Anne, and Sarah. The pictures of the two daughters hang in the great Parlor at Chastleton, and that of their mother, in an oval frame, hangs over the fireplace in " the Parlor ". She was evidently a woman of strong character, and business ability. An account book remains in which she set down the money due to, and spent on, her eldest son. Apparently she paid the expenses of herself and the younger children from her Dowry and private money, as the expenses given are all either estate, or personal to John. The disbursements are all entered as if spoken to him, " Pd for your Mourning Shute, £3 14s. 10d." etc. The estate was held direct from the Crown, and each year Anne Jones enters " the Queen's Chief rent, 16s. 4d." Other taxes and levies included Land Tax, Tithe, Constable's levy, Poors levy, Church levy, and carriage of stone for the highways. The " Queen's Bench," and " Marshalsea money " were taxes levied for the relief of prisoners for debt in those prisons. In 1705 she paid 6/- for furnishing " Ammunition and the Muster master etc ", and in 1708 she paid for putting the arms in order. A Marlborough medal remains in the house, dated 1706.

Anne Jones was probably the designer of the Topiary work in the Chastleton garden, which is said by experts to date from the early 18th century. Her accounts show that she was building a garden wall and an orchard wall, and in 1713 she had work done at the Fore Court wall, and the Best Garden wall. This latter name is still in use.

It took Anne Jones ten years to pay off the mortgage on the estate, while educating her eldest son at Eton, and Oxford. Every year she paid interest

(and occasionally some of the principal) and each year Sir William Whitmore wrote on the back of the deed " Received of my dear Sister " so much. In August, 1720, her final accounts were audited, and John Jones then of age, succeeded to the property. It may be worth noticing that Anne Jones dates an account " Michaelmas to A lady-day ", perhaps a survival of Our Lady Day, and John Jones used the same expression in 1721. As soon as her son came of age Anne Jones went to live at Shrewsbury, possibly with her brother Richard, and near her relations at Apley. She let to John Jones the land of her Dowry for £200 a year, and sold to him all the plate, furniture, etc., left to her by her husband in Chastleton House. The deed was witnessed by her son, Henry, then reading law at Clements Inn. Her two daughters probably lived with her till the youngest, Sarah, married Richard Jervis, of Slaughter. Later the elder sister, Anne, who never married, lived with her sister and brother-in-law at Broadwell, near Chastleton, Mrs. Walter Jones died in 1739, and was buried at Chastleton. Amongst other things she left by will " One stitched Quilt and Pillows to the first of my daughters as are married and have a Child, if neither have, then to go with the House and Goods." As neither had a child the Quilt and Pillows are still among the treasures of the house. To Sarah she left " all the books in my Closet ", i.e. the secret chamber. After signing her name, she added " I desire to be buried as private as possible, and no mourning of any sort put in the Church, nor Hatchment on the House."

Of John Jones who succeeded to Chastleton in 1720 we know very little. He seems to have been devoted to his land and his garden, and to country life in general. His note book in which he entered wind and weather, farm crops, trees, and flowers remains. In May 1731 " a prodigious storm of hail which broke all the windows to the south and east, the hail stones measuring 5 inches in circumference ". In March 1732, " The pears and cherries beginning to blow, and the vines to shoot ". The vineyard at Chastleton is mentioned in many of the accounts, and there are allusions to wine-making there, what is thought to be an old wine-press still remaining. In the library a book of 1675 gives directions for growing vines and for making

wine, and one of the family account books has, in 1772, " Paid Michael Bartlett for Pressing Wine."

John Jones seems to have been in money difficulties from the first. In 1722 he and his brother cut off the entail on the estate, and he was constantly borrowing money. In those days such business was generally done at a Tavern, or Coffee house, and one of his bonds was witnessed by Richard Jervis, and " Charles Pain, Drawer at the King's Arms In Stow." One record of the Manorial Court of John Jones remains. " Presentment made at a Court Leet held for the Manor of Chastleton and Brookend in the County of Oxford, the first day of October, 1737. We present Mrs. Biggs for continuing an Incroachment upon the Wast of this Manor at the front of her House by Inclosing in a certain parcel of land there with a Wall wherein is now a Well of Water, wherefore we Amerce her in the Sum of One half-penny." Mrs. Biggs, wife of a Rector of Chastleton, was a Greenwood by birth, and held the Greenwood property, including land in Evenlode, of which she was the Lady of the Manor.

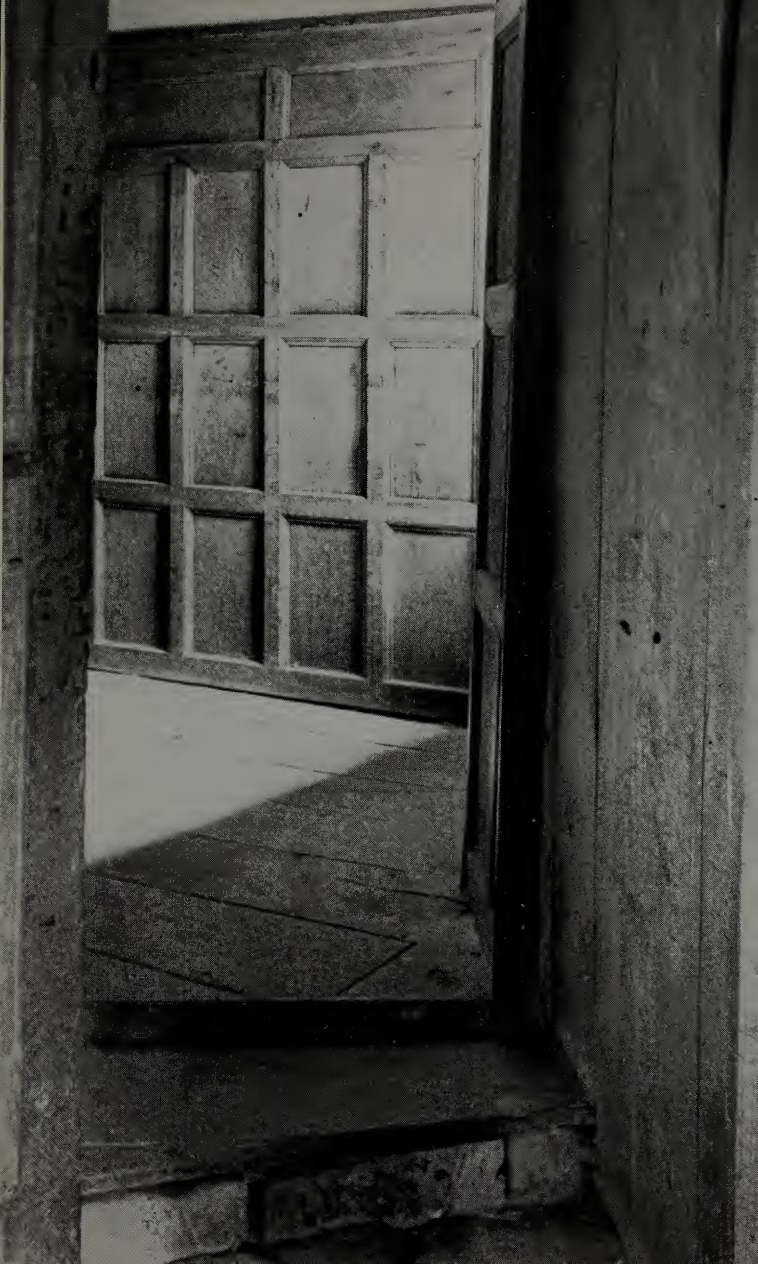
John Jones died in August, 1738, aged thirty-nine. His name is next that of his mother on the marble slab in the Church. He left each of his sisters £250, and an Annuity of £25. The estate was left to Trustees to raise money to pay the legacies and debts. It was then to go to Henry, and was carefully settled on his sons, and, failing them, on the sons of Anne and Sarah. If there should be no children, or no grandchildren of Henry, or of the sisters, the remainder was to " my Kinsman William Whitmore of Lower Slaughter." (This remainder explains the succession of John Henry Whitmore to the Chastleton estate in 1828.) A sum of £1,275 was raised by mortgage, transferred in 1739 to William Whitmore of Lower Slaughter.

Henry Jones, only a year younger than his elder brother, could not have expected to succeed to the estate. In London as a lawyer, he did work for his cousin, Sir Thomas Whitmore, of Apley, his aunt, Lady Whitmore, and other relations. Some of their commissions had no reference to law. They were selling diamond earrings for his sisters, and buying tea at 14s. lb., and a hoop petticoat for his cousin Betty

Whitmore. In 1727 he was advertising in the *Evening Post* the letting of Slaughter Manor House, and later receiving the rent for it. Another cousin, Charles Whitmore, whose name occurs frequently in his accounts was a younger brother of Sir Thomas, The estate of Dudmaston, Salop, was then the property of the Wolryche family, the heir to which, a very young man, was drowned in trying to swim his horse across the flooded Severn. His mother and sister, left in embarrassed circumstances, appealed to Charles Whitmore for help and advice, and, in gratitude for his efforts, settled the reversion of the Dudmaston estate on his son, Thomas. He was the grandfather of John Henry Whitmore, a younger son, who in 1828, succeeded to the Chastleton estate, and took the additional surname of Jones.

Henry Jones married in 1735 Elizabeth Hancock, of the family then owning the manor of Twyning, Gloucestershire. A picture of her grandmother, now at Chastleton, shows her wearing a pearl necklace in the possession of Mrs. Whitmore-Jones. Mr. Hancock had held by copyhold from the Dean and Chapter of Westminster, the estate of Elmstone Hardwick, Glos., two or three farms, bringing in about £190 a year. With money left to be invested for his children he had bought "Lottery Annuities subscribed into the South Sea Company". By the failure of the Company this £1,500, was reduced to £800, half of which was in "South Sea Stock," and half in "South Sea Annuities." Elizabeth seems to have been devoted to her younger brother and sister, John and Anne, who lived most of their lives at Chastleton and died there. John entered Lincoln's Inn in 1735 when he was nineteen, but took up his residence at Chastleton in 1761, playing a large and beneficent part in the lives of his sisters and nephews.

Henry Jones succeeded to an encumbered estate at a time of national unrest and distress. His wife's fortune had been reduced by nearly a half by the bursting of the South Sea Bubble. The Chastleton estate had suffered a fine through the loyalty of his great-grandfather, and though Henry and his brother had been too young to be out in the "Fifteen" the family had remained adherents of the Stuarts. It



does not appear that Henry Jones took any active part in the "Forty Five," but he was President of the Jacobite Cycle Club, of Gloucestershire, and a very fine set of Glass, showing the Jacobite Rose and Motto, remains in his house. There is also a seal, giving three different impressions, (1) the Jones crest; (2) a conventional head; (3) a winged heart over a crown, orb, and sceptre, with the Motto, "Tout pour vous." It may have been to his political opinions that Henry owed his increasing financial difficulties, and his eventual exile from Chastleton. It was not till a year after his brother's death that he brought his family to Chastleton. He continued to spend much of his time in London, carrying on his law work, and using his fees to finance his landed estate of which the rents were generally in arrears. Richard Jervis acted as his Estate Agent. From the account books of Henry Jones we can gather some idea of him, his family, and the neighbourhood. His affectionate nature is shown by his always referring to his sisters by their childish names of Nanny, and Sally, and to his brothers-in-law as Brother John, and Brother Jervis. Henry and Elizabeth had six children, three boys, and three girls, but only the boys lived to grow up. The following extract from Elizabeth's Diary, referring to her youngest child, may explain the high mortality of that time. "Bett came from nurse Sunday, March 10th, began to bath her with the juce of snails an camimile. Saturday, April 28th, began to dip her in cold water Sunday, May 20th. Bet was dipt a month." This was written in 1753, and the poor child died in 1755. A.M.S. Recipe book remaining at Chastleton gives a recipe containing snails pounded in a stone mortar, which is said to be excellent in a consumption.

Among the neighbours are mentioned the Penystons, Leighs, Greenwoods, Hippisleys, Chamberlains, and Doughtys. The most interesting was Lady Juxon, of Little Compton Manor, widow of Sir William Juxon. He was great nephew of Archbishop Juxon, who had retired to his manor there after the execution of Charles I, and lived there till the Restoration. It is said that he conducted the Church of England Service in the hall of Chastleton House, while it was unlawlful to do so in the Church. Lady Juxon married Viscount Fane, but remained in possession of Little Compton Manor

till her death. She gave to John Jones (eldest son and successor of Henry) the Bible which Bishop Juxon had used on the scaffold at the execution of Charles I. It is dated 1629, and has on the cover the Royal Arms, and the initials C.R. On the fly leaf are the words, " Juxon, Compton, Glostershire."

Another relic of King Charles I remains with the Bible. When Mr. Whitmore succeeded to Chastleton in 1828 there was in the house a Miniature of Charles I in a case. One of the children, in playing with it, dropped it, and the back bursting open revealed a set of paintings on talc, each of which being placed on the Miniature showed the King in a different way. The fact that the talc pictures were so carefully concealed suggests that they date from a time when it was unsafe to show the loyalty which produced them.

From the account books we get a few details of the conditions of the time. Brookend, though part of the parish of Chastleton, was a separate manor, and in 1738 there was still a Gate across the road between the two. In 1743 John Harbidge took a farm there from Henry Jones, part of the rent being the old feudal " Plowings ". The family remained at Brookend for more than a century, and the Brookend Chantry in Chastleton Church took from it the name of the Harbidge aisle. A vault was constructed for the Harbidges in the early 19th century, the making of which is said to have pulled the arch above it out of shape. The Town Pool, mentioned in 1738, then the water supply for the village, was drained when a school was built close to it in 1871, and later water for the village was brought from Chastleton Hill. In the 18th century each parish made its own roads, for which the landowners had to draw stone. Some of the tenants drew coal for the landlord as part of their rent.

Unfortunately with Henry Jones matters were going from bad to worse. In 1753 he borrowed money on his wife's share of the Hardwick property. In 1754 all the farm rents but one were in arrears. The mortgage on the estate was transferred that year to John Ratcliff, D.D., of the City of Oxford, who agreed to lend Henry Jones a further sum of £1,725, making a total debt to Dr. Ratcliff of £3,000. Elizabeth Jones agreed to accept £150 yearly instead of the £250

of her jointure, and her eldest son, John, then fifteen years old, joined with her and his father in making the manor security for the debt. Things however got no better, and in 1755 Henry Jones owed, in addition to the Ratcliff debt, a further sum of more than £3,000 to other creditors. In October an Inventory was taken of the Goods and Chattels in Chastleton House, to levy a sum of £283 and charges, and in November Henry Jones became a prisoner for debt in Oxford Castle. Elizabeth went to some friends at Brookend, and for a week to Oxford. Thomas Walker, Gent., of the City of Oxford, was appointed Receiver of Chastleton, and of leasehold property in Elmstone Hardwick. Henry was to receive £84 a year, and his sisters were to have their annuities. Thomas Walker charged Henry Jones in January 1756 for a " Journey to Chastleton to take possession of your estates, and your tenants attornment," i.e. their acknowledgement of his right to receive the rents. Some of his half yearly accounts remain. One of the tenants, John Capps acted as Bailiff, and lived in the Great House. After four months Henry Jones was released and joined his wfe at Brookend, on March 2nd : the Manor House, with the gardens, coach-house, and stables for ten horses, and about thirty acres of good pasture ground adjoining, about one mile from the Great Road to Worcester, was advertised in Jackson's Oxford Journal, but was not let. Henry and Elizabeth Jones with their boys went to live in Stratford-on-Avon in October ; while John and Anne Hancock, with their mother, went to live in Moreton Henmarsh, only some four miles away, where (as can be seen from his account book) John kept an eye on the House and gardens. In 1757 John Hancock advanced £180 on the goods at Chastleton, possibly to save them from being sold. In January 1758 he paid John Capps for a pig to be salted and sent to Stratford. This present became a yearly one and appears regularly in his accounts as " Gave sister pig ". As the pigs were bought from the Home farm the whole family profited by the gift. The cellar at Chastleton in which meat was salted for winter consumption, still retains the gutter for the brine.

On September 20th, 1760, Henry Jones and his family returned to Chastleton. The eldest son, John, was then of age, and another arrangement was made

by which John Hancock and Thomas Walker held the manor in trust for him. He was to receive £25 a year during his father's life. Thomas Walker was to manage the estate, and, after paying all expenses, to pay the remainder of the income to Henry Jones. Henry Jones only lived six months after his return, and died on March 23rd, 1761. His will having been made at Stratford, when John was only eighteen years of age, he appoints as honest and proper Guardians and Trustees, Francis Penyston, of Cornwell, T. Walker, and "my dear loving wife Elizabeth Jones." John is to be "brought up to the profession of the law, and to understand husbandry in his own County." The estate being entailed on John, Henry Jones leaves all the rest and residue to Elizabeth, who is to be sole Executrix. The direction about husbandry makes more interesting an entry in the book of John Hancock, in 1764, "Compleat Body of Husbandry, gave J Jones, £1 4s. od."

John Jones was only twenty-two when he succeeded to his father's heavily encumbered estate. He never married owing to his unrequited attachment to the beautiful Barbara Ingram, whose father had been Rector of Chastleton till his death in 1752. Although like his father, John had succeeded to debts, he was more fortunate in two respects, he had no wife and family to provide for, and he had well-to-do relations. He seems also to have inherited the energy and business qualities of the Hancocks. For the first three years the estate accounts were made out to Mrs. Elizabeth Jones, widow, and John Jones, Esq. In 1764, when John was twenty-five, the accounts were made out to him only. A scrap of paper which has lain ever since in the Rent Book of Henry Jones, has on it, "20th May, 1761. This is ye Agreeament made by me and my son, John Jones, after my late Husband's death that I was to keep house and give him his board and washing and he is to find all fireing except coal. Eliz. Jones." (The coal must have been for the kitchen only, as all the other fire places were constructed for logs of wood.) With this paper were receipts for her jointure of £150 a year, paid by John to his mother. His position seems to have been that of owner of the estate only, his mother having complete possession for her life of the house and all its contents. From him she bought cheese, pigs,

wheat, and wine, and he paid for the board of his diary maid and bailiff. In the years between 1762 and 1780 she bought flax, which she had spun, spooled, and woven to make household linen, the whole cost being £52 4s. 7½d. The spinning was done by the dairy maid in her spare time. There was a spinning wheel in the dairy in 1755, probably the one in the house now.

Immediately after her husband's death Elizabeth recalled her mother, brother, and sister from Moreton. The two latter paid her board money quarterly. The family party was completed by her two younger sons, Charles, aged twenty, and Arthur aged fourteen. Not far away at Broadwell lived Richard and Sarah Jervis, and Anne Jones; and across the way from Chastleton House, Thomas Fothergill, a connection of the family. lived in the old Greenwood home of his ancestors. The Whitmore family at Slaughter was also within easy reach of Chastleton.

Charles Jones seems always to have been delicate, and died in 1779. Between John and Arthur there seems to have been as much difference in character as in age. John, heir to the estate, grew up in the shadow of his father's misfortunes, succeeded to a heavily encumbered property, and was saddened by an unsuccessful love affair. Arthur was but a child when the family had to leave Chastleton, and probably found Stratford a very satisfactory exchange. A number of letters received by him remain, and show the warm affection he inspired. John was much more reserved, a remaining letter of his shows his attachment to Arthur.

In July 1774, Arthur Jones, being out of health, went to Astrop, a Watering Place near Banbury, on the lines of Scott's *St. Ronan's Well*. All the Hancocks seem to have been extraordinarily careful in the management of money, John Hancock even recording the expenditure of 2d. Arthur Jones kept the most detailed accounts at Astrop, down to such trifles as "4 halfpenny cakes". He was in lodgings and his bills show the prices of the day—eggs were ½d. each, butter 8d. lb., mutton 4d. lb., etc, Breakfast at the rooms cost 1s. On August 22nd the barber dressed his hair for the ball that night, at which he spent 2s. 6d. on chocolate, negus, and other refreshments. On one occasion he rode to Buckingham, where the spent 11s. 6d., of which 6s. 6d. was "lost at cards". He

ingenuously divides his accounts into necessary expenses and unnecessary expenses, the Buckingham expedition coming under the latter. These accounts show that although then twenty-seven, Arthur was entirely dependent on his mother, and seems to have had no idea of taking up a profession.

In 1778 Thomas Walker wrote to John Jones, "As the Militia is going to be raised for this County, if it is agreeable to Mrs. Jones and you to have your brothers, or either of them take Commissions therein I believe I can promise a Lieutenants and an Ensigns Commission for them . . . ." This offer seems to have been refused, both brothers were out of health, and Mrs. Jones' Jacobite feelings may have prejudiced her against the Hanoverian Service. But that she was thus asked to decide the future of sons both more than thirty years of age, shows how completely she must have dominated the family. Three years later Arthur was drawn for the Militia, and John and Anne Hancock each gave him five guineas towards the thirteen guineas he paid for a substitute.

In 1782 John and Arthur Jones went to London, their aunt giving them each ten guineas. John Hancock writing to Arthur gives another little Jacobite touch, "So I see you are all turncoats as one of your first visits was to St. James' to pay your most dutiful respects to Majesty. I shall soon expect to see your names and places in the *Gazette* and kiss hands on your promotions. I little thought it would ever come to this."

Till his mother's death in 1784 John Jones seems to have devoted himself to his estate and the farming of his land. She left him her wedding ring, her gold watch, half the linen and plate which belonged to her personally, and £300. All the rest of her own property she left to Arthur, who was sole Executor. Her death released John's estate from her jointure of £150 a year, and he received another £50 a year by the termination of the Annuities of his two Jones aunts, Sarah having died in 1770 and Anne in 1784. From the latter he inherited some £3,000. Arthur Jones paid John the £300 at once, and the same day lent him £1,200 at 4%, probably for the purchase of the Fothergill estate, the old Greenwood property. Part of this land surrounded Chastleton House on the south and west, and the possession of it gave John Jones the pleasure of seeing

from the Common Parlor windows nothing but his own property. The Dovecote of the estate, rebuilt by Thomas Fothergill in 1762, remains. John Jones had to borrow £1,500 from Thomas Walker to complete this purchase, but repaid it in 1789.

The death of his mother must have made John Jones feel himself for the first time the real master of Chastleton House. From that time till his death in 1813 he constantly spent money on what he calls always " my Capital Mansion House ". Between 1785 and 1796 he paid nearly £600 for timber and hauled with his own team many loads of stone. In 1793, writing to Arthur he says, " The slaters this day began to lay the Westmorland slates on the cross roof which is now completely timbered. The Tower wall is now raised to the top of the Tower Chamber door, but as the weather is not now so favourable, and the winter advances so fast I think it will be best to put a temporary covering on the tower and renew the business in the spring." The tower was probably the west tower, as a tradition of its being unsafe remains in the village, it has no staircase to the leads, the only access being by a ladder. In 1805 he bought ten tons of the same slates, but " must insist on their being the *best Green Westmorland Slates* . . . as they are intended to finish the front of my house ". Nearly all the water pipes now on the house were put there by John Jones between the years 1771 and 1810, with his initials and the date. (One older one by the cellar door is dated 1759). The other four pipes of 1815 and 1818 have the initials of Arthur Jones, then the owner.

In 1788 John Jones bought some more land at Brookend, making his estate about 1033 acres, and his rent roll £1,620.

In 1788, John Jones, having some connection with the Militia, was obliged, under the Test Act, to have a Certificate (which remains) that on May 11th, he had been seen by the Rector, Churchwardens, and others to receive the Sacrament of the Lords Supper in the Parish Church.

That year a London friend write " I have secured places for Mr. Hastings' Trial." The Trial of Warren Hastings must have been of the greatest interest to the Jones family. His grand-father, the Rector of the neighbouring parish of Daylesford, took a wedding in

Chastleton Church in 1706, and must have been well known to the grandparents of John Jones. After the acquittal of Warren Hastings he lived on the estate at Daylesford which had belonged to his family. In 1815 he dined with Arthur Jones. He died in 1818, but his widow lived till 1837. She was on friendly terms with Mrs. Whitmore-Jones, to whom she gave some India muslin, still at Chastleton. Her coffin was made in Chastleton, and Mrs. Whitmore-Jones was invited to see how splendidly it was lined with white satin and Brussels lace.

The purchase of the Fothergill estate included the old house of the Greenwoods. In 1786 Arthur Jones, who had bought it from John, repaired and furnished it in preparation for his marriage. It was pulled down and no description of it remains but it must have been large house. From the bills it seems there was a Great Parlour, a Parlour, and a room called by the workmen a "hall", and by Arthur Jones "the Dining Parlour". His repairs cost £283, and his furnishing £408. One of the expenses typical of that date was "a new smoke jack with irons to the vane." Many of the bills from London tradesmen (now valuable as curiosities) remain, together with the articles bought, in the Great House. In 1787 he married Elizabeth Saintsbury, of Cirencester. She was only half the age of Arthur Jones, and was not quite twenty when she married. She seems to have been very delicate. Her two children died in infancy, and she died in 1804. A sad remembrance of her remains in a gold ring set with fair hair, and an inscription, "J.J. ob. May 6th, 1796". This refers to her child John, who lived only one day.

Arthur Jones' fortune consisted of his house, a third part of the Hardwick estate, the £1,500 left him by Anne Jones (which he had lent to John) and £1,200 in the Old South Sea Annuities. His income was about £200 a year. In addition to this his uncle and aunt Hancock allowed him after his marriage £100 a year. The very low prices of the time must be remembered. That he and his wife were not poor is evident from the fact that she had her own riding horse, and that they kept open house for her many relations and friends. Although so much older than his wife Arthur Jones seems to have been beloved by all his

wife's relations, many of whose letters to him remain, shewing their unbroken friendship long after her death.

In 1793 John Hancock died, leaving his share of Hardwick, and his London property to Arthur. That year Arthur Jones bought the Ratcliff mortgage for £3,000. This money was probably advanced by Anne Hancock, as John Jones was for some years paying interest on a bond for £3,000 to her. And in 1804 she lent John £700.

In 1795 John planted some Evergreen Oak acorns, probably they became the trees by the gateway. In 1805 he paid for " a chimney piece and slab in my aunt's room." The bill describes it as a hard stone chimney piece, probably the one in the long room over the hall. Anne Hancock died in 1807, in her 85th year. A fire screen with the Hancock arms, silver plate, and books belonging to the Hancocks remain in the house. The two brothers, John and Arthur, aged respectively sixty-six, and fifty eight, were left, each in his own house, without a single female relative. Arthur was the more fortunate, having acquired so many relations by his marriage, whose letters to him show the evident interest he took in all their affairs.

John Jones died in 1813. His lead coffin cost £13 13s. od., and, in 1816 Arthur Jones paid £84 for the marble slab in the Church on which are both their names.

LIFE IN THE 18th CENTURY

Many letters and papers of the 18th century remain at Chastleton, and the following extracts may give some idea of the conditions of the time.

Two purchases by John Hancock are characteristic of the 18th century, a snuff box he " Gave Sister Jones," and a toothpick for his mother.

The South Sea Company has an ominous sound in modern ears. but after the bursting of the bubble and the intervention of Sir Robert Walpole it became a safe investment and both the Hancocks and Arthur Jones had money in it. In 1770 Anne Hancock had £5,600 worth of its stock, some of the receipts for which remain pinned into her account book.

Magazines and newspapers were taken by the family, the latter being supplied by the General Post Office. A copy of the celebrated No. 45, of the North

Briton (1763) remains in the house together with a picture of Wilkes. This attack on the Ministry of George III may have been agreeable to the Jacobite feeling of the family, and in 1779 John Hancock had the Church bells rung when Admiral Keppel (whose trial had been made a political issue) was acquitted.

The family seems to have been fond of music. Arthur Jones played the flute, and in 1767 he and Charles went to "Banbury Musick". John Hancock bought a Hautboy and Bassoon, and gave "the Singers" a guinea that year, probably for the Chastleton Church Choir and Band. There was no organ in the Church till the middle of the 19th century.

John Hancock had property in Chick Lane, in London (the name occurs in Rejected Addresses) and he shared the Hardwick property with his two sisters. For the business of these he visited London every summer, and wrote and received many letters. Many of these contain references to food sent. Game, bacon, turkeys, pigeons, etc. were sent from the country, and oysters, mackerel, turbot, etc., were received from London. "I sent yesterday a turbot by Worcester Fly, which hope you received safe and good." On these visits John Hancock was evidently expected to do shopping for the whole family, and his purchases include not only clothes and food, but almost everything needed in a house, from a frying pan to a mattress. In his first remaining letter to Arthur Jones, docketed "My Uncle Hancock from London," he says, "I have now brought my Markettings within a narrow compass, and purpose being at Chastleton the latter end of next week. . . . have sent brandy and rum . . . ." (Wine, brandy, rum, and raisins to make wine were constantly paid for by both John and Anne Hancock, and recipes for making shrub, orange, raspberry, and elderflower wine remain at Chastleton). All these heavy goods came by the waggon, and were delivered at the Cross Hands, a mile from Chastleton, or still further away at the Inn at Cornwell.

John Hancock's journey to London and back was as follows. He hired a horse from one of the Chastleton farmers, and rode to Oxford, where he spent the night, sending the horse back by one of the slow, broadwheel waggons. He went on to London next day by coach, dining at Maidenhead, and arriving at Hyde Park

Corner about six o'clock. Returning in the same way he had a horse sent from Chastleton to Oxford, and often invited his nephews to spend the night with him there.

While he was able to hire a horse for a journey, Anne Hancock was obliged to take a Post Chaise, and a man servant when she went to Cirencester, baiting at Foss Bridge on the way. The necessity for an escort shows the dangers of the road, and explains the allusion in *Pride and Prejudice*, when Lady Catherine could not "bear the idea of two young women travelling post by themselves."

The curious formality of the time appears by the letters of John Hancock to his favourite nephew. He sometimes begins them "My dear Sir," and he always refers to his other two nephews as "Mr. Jones," and "Mr. Charles." (In the same way, Anne's account book, has in 1774, "Gave Mr. Arthur a horse").

In 1778, writing from London, his Jacobite feeling peeps out in the remark, on the King's Birthday, "The Court was not so brilliant or numerous as upon former occasions, so should rather think that some of the King's friends have forsaken him." A reminder of how small a town London then was is conveyed by the remark, "Mr. Jones has had a fine touch for his hay if he has been as lucky as the London farmers have been."

He went with a party "to the grand Crickett Match between Kent and Hampshire for the trifling sum of £1,000."

In 1780 John Hancock saw something of the Gordon Riots, so wonderfully described by Dickens in Barnaby Rudge. "Thank God have escaped the danger of all the riots. Tho' so many fires at one time was really very tremendous and frightful indeed. I hope we have got the better of our enemies for the present. There are two Capitall Camps in St. James' and Hyde Parks." Though the procession numbered 60,000, and the fires, looting, and rioting had lasted for five days, it does not seem to have occurred to him to leave London. In 1782 he was writing from London about "the London complaint which some call the influenza" . . . there was a Lieutenant of a Man of War here, who had 600 out of 700 down with it in his ship."

In the 18th century the transference of money was as great a difficulty as the travelling. Although

Bank Cheques were invented they do not seem to have been in general use. The Hardwick rents were brought to Chastleton either by the agent, or by a trusty messenger. When Bank notes were sent by post they were cut in half, the second half not being sent till the first had been received. When John Hancock wanted to send £1,000 to London he sent ten India Bonds for £100 each, and " rode over to Chipping Norton to put them in the post myself in order to secure them so far." On another occasion sending money and deeds to London he put them in to the box of the bailiff's son who was returning thither. When his London agent wrote anxiously about their non-arrival, John Hancock explained that " Jack Capps was to have set out for London Monday the 12th inst, which he did not, then he intended setting out as yesterday but was disappounted by not being able to get a conveyance, and Mr. Penyston's coach being going to London empty Saturday or Sunday next to be new painted intends staying for a conveyance in that." The box had gone by the waggon and was waiting at the Booking Office for the owner. It must have been heavy as it contained six score guineas, and £2 17s. 6d. in cash, besides bills, etc., the whole value being £207 0s. 6d. In 1793 A. Jones sent his banker cash and bills for £999 19s. 10d. who wrote " as I perceive you intended it to be £1,000 I send a receipt for that sum."

Another money difficulty was the clipping of coins. John Hancock gives several instances of this, one being " lost by exchange light gold 3 guineas 4s. 9d."

People seem to have invested their money by bonds among their friends, and to have kept large sums in their own hands. In 1755 Anne Hancock had in the Plate Box at Chastleton £140 in Bank notes, and £113 7s. 6d. in cash. When Arthur Jones died in 1828 there was in the house £1,184 1s. 10d., and this too was " subject to deductions for light gold."

Though now owner of Chastleton Arthur Jones seems to have been reluctant to leave the house he had furnished for his marriage, in which he had lived for twenty-six years. In spite of all the care and expenditure of John Jones there seems to have been much work still necessary at the Great House. More

than two years after his death a letter to Arthur asks, "When do you intend to occupy the Great House . . . you appear to have much to do there." Another letter refers to "alterations and improvements," and to "the workmen repairing your great House." Bills include paving the hall, porch, and butler's pantry, gutters and pipes, glass for the Parlour windows, gilding the lions (probably the weathercocks on the towers in the shape of the Jones' arms) and painting and gilding the Coat of Arms in the Church. In 1819 painting included the "Buck in front Hall." The collection of pewter at Chastleton is exceptionally fine, but it would be still finer if Arthur Jones had not had the idea of selling 82 lbs. of old pewter at 1s. lb. It is only fair to add that he bought two oval pewter dishes with wells, which cost nearly as much.

A number of letters written to Arthur Jones give glimpses of the conditions of the time. The crossing from Newhaven to Dieppe took ten hours, and a voyage to India four months. In August, 1805, news was expected of a Naval battle, a cutter having reported that the Fleet was "engaging the Enemy," (off Cape Finisterre) and Londoners had "candles all in their sockets ready for lighting." In 1806 "the dreadful news of the capture of Hamburg and confiscation of all British property by the common enemy of man has thrown the commercial world into a state never before experienced." As a result of this the correspondent of Arthur Jones became bankrupt, and Arthur lost £2,000. In 1814 the escape of Napoleon from Elba draws from another correspondent the hope that it will be "the last unsuccessful attempt the villain will ever be permitted to make against the peace and happiness of Europe." The sympathy now expressed for Napoleon at St. Helena would have found little support from his contemporaries!

Owing to the Napoleonic wars times were very hard, and all the Chastleton rents were in arrears. In June, 1816, John Davis (whose family held the Hill Farm for 130 years) paid the half years rent due at Lady Day 1815, and in 1819, though allowed 20% reduction, he was £133 in arrears. Other farmers were in the same position and it is not surprising to find that when Arthur Jones died in 1828 the tenants arrears amounted to £1,354. One of the tenants, who had borrowed

from him £250, had paid no interest on the bond for nearly nine years.

Arthur Jones made his will in 1814 leaving Chastleton, in accordance with the will of his uncle, to "My Kinsman, John Henry Whitmore, of Dudmaston, Salop." During the two centuries in which the Jones family had held the estate the owners had possessed only four Christian names, Walter, Henry, Arthur, and John, and it may have been in view of the succession that William Whitmore had christened his younger son by two of these. J. H. Whitmore was at Christ Church, Oxford, and then entered the Army, but retired on his marriage in 1821 to Dorothy, daughter of Colonel Clutton, of Pensax Court, Worcestershire. In 1819 a note, "Mr. Whitmore for tenants dinner," suggests that he was at Chastleton and acting for Arthur Jones. After his marriage he lived for a time at Bigswear on the Wye. An undated draft of a letter remains, "Dear Sir, I received your kind favour of the 1st inst. and am much obliged by your kind invitation to Bigswear, should it be quite convenient to you and Mrs. W. to receive me I purpose waiting on you about the middle of next week should the weather prove good and not extremely hot and nothing happens to prevent me. I hope you will excuse my not absolutely fixing a day as I trust you will not treat me as a stranger. As I hope to have the pleasure of seeing you soon I shall only add my kind regards to Mrs. W. and yourself, and remain dear Sir, yours truly, A.J." This letter may refer to the summer of 1825 when Arthur Jones bought a Phaeton and went to Bigswear driven by his servant, James Cotton, whose bill of the expenses remains, showing that they went by Cheltenham, Gloucester, Ross, and Monmouth. Bigswear was a long way off, and as Swerford Rectory, only eight miles from Chastleton, was to let, Mr. Whitmore took it, and established his family there, within easy reach of Arthur Jones.

It is now necessory to return for a time to the Hancock family. When Anne Hancock died, in 1807, Arthur Jones, who seems always to have done the kind thing, sent her seal ring to the then head of the Hancock family, the owner of Twyning (daughter of Peter Hancock), who had married a Captain Maxwell. Her son, George, who shortly succeeded her at Twyning,

and his three sisters, became intimate with Arthur Jones, their distant cousin, and were often at Chastleton. The two elder sisters were married, the youngest, Helen, kept house for George. In 1815 Arthur Jones paid a visit to Twyning, and in 1816 George and Helen rode up to Chastleton. They had a beautiful ride "in consequence of Lords Northwick and Coventry having planted the hills so beautifully between Bourton and Broadway, what used to be a dreary waste is converted as if by enchantment into a domain richly ornamented by tasteful plantations." That year Mr. Fowke, husband of one of the sisters, became Estate Agent to Arthur Jones for the Hardwick property, and money matters began to play a large part in the correspondence of George Maxwell. In 1818 he, asked Arthur Jones to lend him £5,000 to buy land in Twyning. In 1819 Arthur Jones let him £3,000, and in 1826 he lent him another £1,000 at 4%. Two and a half years later, at the death of Arthur Jones, only one year's interest had been paid on this. In December, 1826, George Maxwell gave Arthur Jones an Annuity Bond for the payment of £250 per annum on the Hardwick estate. Possibly Arthur Jones, knowing that the Hardwick estate had been Hancock property, thought it fair that at his death it should revert to that family, and the arrangement would have saved him the trouble of managing an estate at a distance. The payment of this Annuity was a year and seven months in arrears when Arthur Jones died. By his will Arthur Jones left Helen Maxwell £1,000, and her married sisters £500 each. George Maxwell was Executor and Residuary Legatee. (He owed Arthur Jones so much money that the amount paid to his sisters was reduced to a little over £500).

The estate of Arthur Jones was sworn under £18,000. George Maxwell was at Chastleton in the summer of 1828, and in August that year, three months before the death of Arthur Jones, a codicil was added to his will appointing George Maxwell Trustee to preserve contingent remainders, (in place of Francis Penyston who had died) and charging the Estate with a sum of £15,000 in favour of George Maxwell. On November 12th, nine days before the death of Arthur Jones, a final codicil was added the object of which was to revoke all the legacies to George Maxwell, and

to prevent his taking any benefit under the will or the codicil. It appointed J. H. Whitmore, Executor in place of George Maxwell. The witnesses were James Adams, then Rector, and two of the tenant farmers. The explanation of this codicil, known to the family and well remembered in the village, is that James Cotton, being suspicious of certain conversations with his master, listened at his door, and overheard something which he thought Mr. Whitmore ought to know. He accordingly immediately rode over to Swerford, and reported what he had heard. Mr. Whitmore came at once to Chastleton, and the final codicil was signed. Had it not been added he would have succeeded to a practically bankrupt estate.

Arthur Jones died on November 21st, 1828, aged eighty-one. Kind hearted and affectionate he seems to have been the friend of all with whom he came into contact. Stories of him are still told in the village. One is that in his last illness it occurred to him to wonder if the Passing Bell would be properly rung at his death. Accordingly he sent to one of his men to go and ring the bell that he might hear the effect. The man being busy sent his boy to ring the bell, and Arthur Jones was much displeased with the result! It gives an amazing picture of village life to hear this story repeated with the christian names of the man and boy, as if it had happened yesterday. And, after the burial of Arthur Jones in the vault in the Church, it is said his old shepherd knelt on the cold floor above it to tell his master—as he had told him for so many years—how the sheep on his farm were doing.

John Henry Whitmore assumed the additional surname and the arms of Jones on succeeding to Chastleton. He died in 1853, leaving four sons and six daughters. The sons all died unmarried, and the eldest daughter, Mary Elizabeth Whitmore-Jones held the property by consent of her sisters (all of whom were married) from the death of their youngest brother in 1874, till the year 1900, when she resigned it to her nephew, Thomas Whitmore Harris, the son of her next sister, Mrs. John Harris. That year he took the name and arms of Whitmore-Jones, and married his first cousin, Irene Dickins, daughter of Canon Dickins, Vicar of Tardebigge, and his wife, Frances Barbara, third daughter of John Henry Whitmore-Jones.

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